

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ESCAP

SUBJECT: ESCAP: INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING
ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEBRUARY 1-7, 1977

REF: BANGKOK 33439

FODAG

TEHRAN FOR ROBERT SKIFF

1. DEPT CONCERNED BY APPARENT LACK OF COOPERATION AND
COORDINATION BETWEEN ESCAP SECRETARIAT AND FAO IN PREPARA-
TIONS FOR SUBJECT MEETING. IN THE PAST THIS MEETING HAS
BEEN A RELATIVELY LOW PROFILE AFFAIR. IT NOW GIVES EVERY
INDICATION OF BECOMING A SOURCE OF OVERLAP AND DISSENSION
BETWEEN THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. FAO HAS RECENTLY INFORMED
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ESCAP OF ITS DESIRE TO DISOLVE THE JOINT FAO/ESCAP

AGRICULTURE DIVISION AND TO PROVIDE COOPERATION DIRECTLY WITH FAO'S REGIONAL OFFICE BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1977.

2. APPEARS MEETING MAY BE DUPLICATIVE OF PREPARATIONS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS (PERSUANT TO ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1967 (LIX) OF 30 JULY 1975) FOR WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 1979. FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN 1978 ARE TO BE FOCI OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PREPARATIONS. THESE PREPARATIONS APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH "ESCAP ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE LEAD IN ACHIEVING A PROPERLY COORDINATED INTERAGENCY APPROACH IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREA" (PARA 2 REFTEL).

3. FOR BANGKOK: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INSIGHT EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE TO CLARIFY OBJECTIVES OF MEETING. COULD THESE BE DEALT WITH BY ESCAP COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULED TO MEET LATER IN 1977? AT WHAT LEVEL DO OTHER AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUAL ESCAP MEMBERS INTEND TO PARTICIPATE? HOW DOES TOKYO MEETING RELATE TO JAPANESE DESIRE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE IN JAPAN?

4. FOR ROME: DOES FAO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SUBJECT MEETING? IF SO, HOW DOES FAO VIEW IT IN RELATION TO PREPARATIONS FOR 1979 WORLD CONFERENCE? WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION RE FAO VIEWS ON DISPUTE WITH ESCAP SECRETARIAT BEYOND FAO DG COMMENT IN OPENING SPEECH TO 70TH COUNCIL. KISSINGER

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